

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-7. (Canceled)

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8. (Currently Amended) An information processing system for processing media contents from a content provider, comprising:

at least one information processing apparatus;

a control apparatus configured to control the flow of said media contents from said content provider to said at least one information processing apparatus; and

*B1*  
a master information processing apparatus in communication with said at least one information processing apparatus and said control apparatus, said master information processing apparatus including:

a first transmitter to transmit appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least one information processing apparatus;

a first receiver to receive accounting information from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information, said accounting information related to payment for media contents received directly by said either at least one information processing apparatuses apparatus from said content provider, ~~wherein said accounting information generated in accordance with said proxy account settlement information, and used to perform account settlement with said control apparatus~~ said first receiver generating payment information when said

PATENT

Appl. No. 09/719,015

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accounting information is processed;

a second transmitter to transmit said accounting-payment information received  
from said first receiver to said control apparatus; and

a second receiver to receive registration conditions from said control apparatus,  
said registration conditions prepared in accordance with said account settlement  
performed with said control apparatus response to receiving said payment information  
from the master information processing apparatus that settles payment for media contents  
received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said

control apparatus includes a service provider.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said

information processing system includes an electronic music distribution system.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8 ,wherein said  
first transmitter transmits said appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least  
one information processing apparatus over a local-area network.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said  
second transmitter in said master information processing apparatus transmits said accounting  
information to said control apparatus over a wide-area network.

13. (New) A method for controlling the flow of media contents from a content provider to at least one information processing apparatus, comprising:

controlling communication between a master information processing apparatus and said at least one information processing apparatus, including:

transmitting appropriate proxy account settlement information from said master information processing apparatus to said at least one information processing apparatus, and receiving accounting information at said master information processing apparatus from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information, said accounting information related to payment for said media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus from said content provider;

generating payment information when said accounting information is processed at said master information processing apparatus;

transmitting said payment information to said content provider; and receiving registration conditions from said control apparatus, wherein the registration conditions are prepared in response to receiving said payment information from the master information processing apparatus that settles payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus.